I. Introduction

A. Submission of the report

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/161, in which the Assembly encouraged contributions to the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the operations of the Special Fund.

B. Mandate of the Special Fund

2. The Special Fund was established pursuant to article 26 of the Optional Protocol to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment following a visit to a State party to the Optional Protocol, as well as education programmes of national preventive mechanisms.

3. The Special Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. An overview of contributions to the Special Fund to date is provided in section III of the present note.

C. Management of the Special Fund

4. The Special Fund is administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. As an interim scheme in place until the financial basis of the Fund is consolidated, the OHCHR Grants Committee, the advisory body to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, advises the High Commissioner on the eligibility of projects and awards of grants based on the evaluation criteria set out in the guidelines for applications for the project cycles of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Plans are under way to review the current arrangements as of the project cycle of 2015.

D. Eligibility criteria

5. Grant applications can be submitted for eligible projects aimed at implementing recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture following a visit to a State party to the Optional Protocol, provided those recommendations are contained in a report made public upon request by the State party. At present, seven countries (Benin, Brazil, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico, Paraguay and Sweden) fulfil this primary admissibility criterion. Applications may be submitted by State parties and their national preventive mechanisms. In addition, applications may be submitted by national human rights institutions that are compliant with the Paris Principles and by non-governmental organizations if the proposed projects are implemented in cooperation with State parties and/or national preventive mechanisms.

6. In addition, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture identifies thematic priorities for each cycle. As of the 2013 call for applications, thematic priorities were identified for each country. In addition, projects proposed to address any other specific recommendation contained in the visit reports that described a pressing and compelling need can be considered.

II. Activities of the Special Fund

A. Call for applications for 2012

7. The Special Fund became operational in July 2011, and the first call for applications was launched on 1 November 2011, for projects to be awarded and implemented in 2012. Under the call for applications for 2012, for which applicants could request grants of up to $20,000, 69 applications were received, of which 25 were deemed admissible, as they were submitted before the deadline and met the eligibility criteria regarding the publication of Subcommittee reports.[1] In accordance with the guidelines for applications, the secretariat of the Special Fund conducted an extensive evaluation of the 25 admissible projects in the light of the thematic priorities identified by the Subcommittee and taking into consideration the outcome of informal consultations conducted with members of the Subcommittee in February 2012. The evaluation process was carried out in close collaboration with OHCHR field presences, and field visits to eligible applicants were made by staff of OHCHR or the United Nations Development Programme.

8. Nine projects encompassing a wide range of activities in accordance with the Subcommittee recommendations that addressed the prevention of torture, in Benin, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico and Paraguay, were approved, and grants were awarded for a total amount of $166,877. Details on the grants awarded for 2012 are contained in the annex.

9. The remaining 16 projects were rejected by the Grants Committee because they did not meet the selection criteria established by the guidelines for applications for 2012.

B. Call for applications for 2013

10. The second call for applications to the Special Fund was published on 15 August 2012 and closed on 15 October 2012, for grants for projects to be implemented in 2013. For that call for applications, thematic priorities for each country were identified by the Subcommittee at its seventeenth session, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 June 2012.

11. Applicants could request grants of up to $50,000 for project activities to be implemented in 2013.

12. A total of 34 applications were received, of which four did not meet the primary eligibility criteria. The 30 admissible applications were for projects to be implemented in Benin, Brazil, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico and Paraguay.

[1] At the time, eligible applications had been received for the following six countries: Benin, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico, Paraguay and Sweden.

13. In accordance with the guidelines for applications, the secretariat of the Special Fund conducted an extensive evaluation of the 30 project proposals in the light of the thematic priorities identified and taking into consideration the outcome of informal consultations with members of the Subcommittee conducted in February 2013.

14. Eight grants were awarded to projects aimed at implementing recommendations made by the Subcommittee in all six eligible countries, for a total of $296,854.10. Details on the grants awarded for 2013 are contained in the annex.

15. The remaining project proposals did not meet the criteria set out in the guidelines for applications for 2013, including the thematic criteria, and were therefore not retained by the Grants Committee.

C. Call for applications for 2014

16. The call for applications to the Special Fund for grants to be awarded for 2014 will be launched in August 2013.

III. Financial situation of the Special Fund

17. In 2012, the Fund received contributions for a total amount of $403,363. In 2013, as at 6 August, the Fund had received contributions of a total amount of $10,000. Further voluntary contributions are encouraged because the Special Fund is increasingly asserting itself as a valuable tool to assist States and national preventive mechanisms to take measures for the prevention of torture.

18. The table below shows the contributions received in the period 2012-2013.

Contributions to the Special Fund received in 2012 and 2013

Donors	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Date of receipt*
Argentina	10 000.00	14 February 2013
Czech Republic	10 219.56	17 December 2012
Italy	18 932.47	21 December 2012
Switzerland	215 982.72	20 December 2012
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	158 227.85	21 March 2012

IV. Making a contribution

19. Contributions to the Special Fund may be accepted from Governments, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations and the public at large, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. Only unearmarked funds are accepted.

20. Contributions to the Special Fund should be marked "Payee: Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, account CH". Payments may be made in the following ways:

(a) Bank transfer in United States dollars to the United Nations Geneva General Fund, account No. 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, 270 Park Avenue, 43rd floor, New York, NY 10017, United States of America (Swift code: CHAS US 33; bank number: (ABA) 021000021);

(b) Bank transfer in euros to the United Nations Office at Geneva, account No. 6161600934, J.P. Morgan Chase AG, Grueneburgweg 2 — 60322 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Swift code: CHAS DE FX; bank number: (BLZ) 50110800; IBAN: DE78 5011 0800 6161 6009 34);

(c) Bank transfer in pounds sterling to the United Nations Office at Geneva, account No. 23961903, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, 25 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AJ, United Kingdom (Swift code: CHAS GB 2L; bank number: (SC) 609242; IBAN: GB68 CHAS 6092 4223 9619 03);

(d) Bank transfer in Swiss francs to the United Nations Geneva General Fund, account No. 240-C0590160.0, UBS AG, rue du Rhône 8, case postale 2600, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland (Swift code: UBSW CH ZH 80A; bank number: 240; IBAN: CH92 0024 0240 C059 0160 0);

(e) Bank transfer in other currencies to the United Nations Geneva General Fund, account No. 240-C0590160.1, UBS AG, rue du Rhône 8, case postale 2600, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland (Swift code: UBSW CH ZH 80A; bank number: 240; IBAN: CH65 0024 0240 C059 0160 1);

(f) Cheque payable to the United Nations, addressed to Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

21. Donors are requested to inform the Donor and External Relations Section of OHCHR when a payment has been made (including a copy of the bank transfer order or the cheque) to facilitate effective follow-up in the official recording procedure and for preparation of reports of the Secretary-General.

V. Recommendation

22. **Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities are strongly encouraged to contribute to the Special Fund, in order to provide it with the resources required to carry out its mandate.**

Annex

Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: projects approved to date by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Grants Committee

Projects approved under the call for applications for 2012

Country	*Project summary*	*Applicant*	*Grant amount (United States dollars)*
1. Benin	The implementation of recommendations concerning juveniles in detention	World Organization against Torture (non-governmental organization) in partnership with Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (local non-governmental organization)	19 539
2. Honduras	Training for prison staff on human rights standards and prevention of torture	Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	20 000
3. Honduras	Technical support to the national preventive mechanism in Honduras and training for judges, prosecutors and public defenders	Regional Office for Latin America of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (non-governmental organization) in Panama	14 847
4. Maldives	The notification of fundamental rights to foreign detainees in their local languages	Human Rights Commission of Maldives (national preventive mechanism)	13 200
5. Maldives[a]	Strengthening the work of the national preventive mechanism through the organization of a second national dialogue on the prevention of torture	Association for the Prevention of Torture — Geneva (non-governmental organization), in partnership with the national preventive mechanism	20 000
6. Mexico	The provision of training on the use of the *Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*	Colectivo contra la tortura y la impunidad (non-governmental organization)	19 807
7. Paraguay	The systematization of police records	Ministry of the Interior	19 984
8. Paraguay	The design of fair-trial indicators allowing the monitoring of constitutional guarantees of lawful detention and the presumption of innocence	Supreme Court of Justice	20 000
9. Paraguay	Support for the work of the national body in charge of the selection of the commissioners for the future national preventive mechanism	Ministry of Justice and Labour	19 500
Total grants for 2012			**166 877**

[a] Project cancelled due to a political situation in Maldives.

Projects approved under the call for applications for 2013

Country	*Project summary*	*Applicant*	*Grant amount (United States dollars)*
1. Benin	The implementation of recommendations of the Subcommittee concerning protection of children deprived of their liberty in Benin	World Organization against Torture (non-governmental organization) in partnership with Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (local non-governmental organization)	44 428.00
2. Brazil	Implementation Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Minas Gera	Minas Gerais state Human Development Secretariat	47 712.50
3. Brazil	Rio de Janeiro state plan to prevent and combat torture	State Preventive Mechanism of Rio de Janeiro	27 600.00
4. Honduras	Legal reform and support to the national preventive mechanism in Honduras	Regional Office for Latin America of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (non-governmental organization) in Panama	30 325.00
5. Maldives	Support the national preventive mechanism of Maldives for effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the national preventive mechanism	Human Rights Commission of Maldives (national preventive mechanism)	15 703.60
6. Mexico	Training on combating torture for the Mexican judiciary in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and key national justice institutions	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (non-governmental organization)	46 855.00
7. Paraguay	Contribution to the development of public policies aimed at the prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment within the purview of the judiciary	Supreme Court of Justice	34 230.00
8. Paraguay	Strengthening capacities on human rights of the Public Prosecutor	Training centre of the Office of the Public Prosecutor	50 000.00
Total grants for 2013			**296 854.10**